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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/386,991	08/31/1999	HIROSHI TAKAHARA	MTS-3130	2009

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EXAMINER

HO, TUAN V

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2612

DATE MAILED: 05/24/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/386,991

Applicant(s)

TAKAHARA, HIROSHI

Examiner

TUAN HO

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 3-12 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 2 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 December 1999 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

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1. It is noted that the present application has been transferred to a new examiner.
2. Applicant's election without traverse of the invention of Group I, claims 1-2 in Paper No. 11 is acknowledged. Claims 3-12 are withdrawn from further consideration on the merits as non-elected claims.
3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato et al (US 5,185,712) in view of Hashimoto et al (US 2001/0050716 A1).

Sato et al disclose in Fig. 1, a viewfinder arranged in a video camera, which comprises the light generating means (backlight 3, col. 1, line 32), display panel (LCD panel 2, col. 1, line 29), and magnification lens (lens 7, col. 1, line 41), except that converging means and reflecting-type display panel.

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Sato et al does not explicitly discloses any converging means and reflecting-type display panel; However, Hashimoto et al teaches using a reflecting-type LCD apparatus that reflects a light source such as sunlight irradiated on the LCD panel so as to display an object image on the LCD.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to replace the LCD panel with a backlight source of the viewfinder of Sato et al with the reflective-type LCD panel so as to obtain a viewfinder using a reflective-type LCD panel. That is because the replacement of the LCD panel with a backlight source with a reflective-type LCD panel reduce power consumption for the video camera due to a sunlight source able to be used.

In the combination of the viewfinder, since a reflective-type of LCD panel needs to have a light source in front of the panel instead of in the back of the panel, there must be inherently a light source located in the front of the panel so as to supply light rays to the panel. In addition, Hashimoto discloses using a light source 42 including a reflector 43 that is used to provide parallel light to LCD 47.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the light source 42 including reflector 43 of Hashimoto et al in

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the viewfinder of Sato in view of Hashimoto et al since the implementation of the light source 42 with reflector 43 would provide a parallel light to the LCD panel and thereby to improve quality of light distribution on the LCD.

4. Claim 2 is allowed.

The prior art of record fails to suggest or disclose a viewfinder comprising LED for emitting a white light, a concave transparent block having reflecting means on the back face, a display panel ;wherein the light emitted from the white LED is converted by the reflecting means into substantially parallel light and illuminates the display panel.

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Ueda et al discloses a backlighting viewfinder that uses sunlight to reduce power consumption in a video camera.

Inana discloses an electronic viewfinder that can be used as projector.

Seegert et al discloses a viewfinder that can be converted into a projector by using a backlight source.

Lim et al discloses a viewfinder that uses backlight source.


Morito et al discloses a CCD microscope that uses a white LED light source.

Kobayashi discloses a photographing system that uses white LED light source.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TUAN HO whose telephone number is (703) 305-4943. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri from 7AM to 4PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, WENDY GARBER, can be reached on (703) 305-4924. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.


TUAN HO

Primary Examiner

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